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EYEWITNESS TO DAMASCUS RAID SAYS SIX RUSSIANS KILLED

MI01338 DAMASCUS SANA IN ARABIC TO KHARTOUM SANA 1244 GMT 10
OCT 73 M

(ITEM BEARS CAVEAT "TO NEWSPAPER AL-AYYAM")

(EXCERPTS) DAMASCUS, IDRIS HASAN--I WAS ONE OF THE EYEWITNESSES OF THE UGLY CRIMINAL RAID BY THE ISRAELI ENEMY AIR FORCE ON DAMASCUS YESTERDAY, AS A RESULT OF WHICH SEVERAL INNOCENT CIVILIANS INCLUDING THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF CERTAIN FOREIGN DIPLOMATS IN THE SYRIAN CAPITAL WERE AMONG THE CASUALTIES.

THE RAID HIT THE DIPLOMATIC QUARTER IN DAMASCUS, WHERE THE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER WAS DESTROYED AND SIX OF ITS EMPLOYEES WERE KILLED.

THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS AT THE BEDSIDE OF HIS WIFE IN THE HOSPITAL, SAID THAT HE CANNOT FIND WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE CRIME, WHICH HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

THE CULTURAL COUNSELOR OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY DENOUNCED THE RAID AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CANNOT REMAIN SILENT REGARDING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CULTURAL CENTER, WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY.

10 OCT 1419Z BG/JZ